

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear Not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1, 1866.

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PLAN TO SHIFT TAXES

Four Bills Before Legislature to Reduce Levy Four Mills This Year

Columbia, Feb. 19.—The reduction of state tax levy by four mills this year and the elimination altogether next year of property taxes will be the result, if the general assembly enacts the four bills, now on the house calendar, to provide additional sources of state revenue, according to Representative E. T. Hughes, chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives.

The four bills in question are those providing for tax on gasoline and oils, the income tax, the tax on partnerships and corporations and the tax on inheritances. The gasoline and oil tax bill has been voted by the house. The inheritance tax bill has also passed the house. The other two measures are expected to meet with stronger opposition, and it is also predicted that the senate will oppose them all. It is stated that there are senators who, representing large interests, will oppose these measures.

It is stated by Chairman Hughes of the ways and means committee of the house, that these measures, if made into law, will save the people of the state this year four mills of their state levy. It will take half of the year, he says, to get the machinery for assessment and collection of the tax into operation. Next year, Mr. Hughes says, the four laws "could save the state all of the present property tax of twelve mills. Enough revenue would be raised to wipe out the present taxation."

Mr. Hughes says that the ways and means committee of the house, where all finance measures get first consideration, has made a close study of the taxation system of the state, and they conclude that the need of the state is for additional sources of revenue, with the present property tax system abolished. The committee takes the position that the pending measures would put the tax burden where it can best be borne, relieving the present over-burdened mule and wagon of the small farmer and the fifty-foot front of the small property owner in the town. At the same time they figure that the tax to be imposed on gasoline, that on incomes, the tax on inheritances and that on businesses would in each case be so small as not to be burdensome. The gasoline tax of one cent a gallon would be paid by the automobile owner, who is usually a man more able to pay than the average pedestrian. The income tax would begin with one per cent on small incomes. Advocates of these revenue measures hold that they would be burdensome to none.

NO PANIC COMING HARDING SAYS

Spartanburg, Feb. 18.—Governor W. P. G. Harding, of the federal reserve board, speaking here tonight at the annual dinner of the Spartanburg chamber of commerce, attended by more than three hundred, many guests from adjoining counties, made one of the clearest analyses of the operation of the federal reserve system, the existing financial conditions and the forces contributing to the varying conditions since the fall of 1914, yet heard by the people of this city.

The governor stated that the danger of panic in this country has been definitely passed and was passed last November and the federal reserve board no longer looks with apprehension on financial conditions. "We are not without problems," he said, "because we have them in matters of taxation, foreign trade and housing but they will be worked out under the spirit of conservative optimism that is now evident in this country. The only man, he said, who has solved all his problems is the man being carried to the cemetery."

"We must realize," he said, "that things are never as good or as bad as they seem. The governor got proud they were not as good as they seemed, and now we must know and we do know that they are not as bad as they seem. The governor got prolonged applause when he concluded one portion of his address by declaring there are only two places where the sun always shines—"Death's Valley, California, and the Desert of Sahara."

CHALLENGE TO PLAY GOLF

St. Augustine, Feb. 19.—Another projected classic of sports of the world went by the board when Mr. Harding declined a challenge from the Greenville, South Carolina, postmaster to match skill on golf links with reappointment to the postmaster's office at stake. Mr. Harding wrote that he was regarded as a miserable player and was unwilling to "have his administration weakened by basing its attitude by my incapacity at golf." He added that he liked the postmaster's office and if the conditions of the challenge were removed he was willing to accept the match whenever an opportunity offered.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The congressional investigation of the shipping industry today. The report on the inquiry, which continued for the last eighteen months, submitted to the house

HUGHES HEADS THE CABINET

Harding Announces Appointment of Charles E. Hughes as Secretary of State

St. Augustine, Feb. 19.—President-elect Harding today announced the selection of Charles E. Hughes as secretary of state. Judge Hughes has accepted the appointment.

BANK ROBBER MEETS HIS MATCH

Henry Starr, Noted Western Bad Man Shot by Banker

Harrison, Ark., Feb. 18.—Henry Starr, Oklahoma bank robber who was paroled two years ago by the governor of that state, was shot and seriously wounded today when he and two companions attempted to rob the State Bank of Harrison.

While the bandits were taking all available cash, W. J. Myers, former president of the bank, entered, and was forced to go into the vault. There he obtained a rifle, secreted for emergency and from the darkness fired at the robbers, bringing Starr down with a bullet below the heart. Starr's companions fled and tonight are believed to be surrounded in a neighboring wood.

Henry Starr was born at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, December 2, 1872. His father George Starr, known as "Hop" Starr and was a half-bred Cherokee Indian. His mother was a fourth Cherokee. Henry grew up in the Cherokee nation and at the age of 16 became a cowboy.

Starr's first notorious act was the killing of Floyd Wilson, a railroad detective in 1903 near Lenapah, in the Cherokee nation. Starr and Wilson rode up to each other on the road and fought a duel, the former coming out victorious.

When only a youth, Starr became known as a dead shot with the rifle and "six shooter." He has been arrested many times for bank robbery and when convicted became such a model prisoner that in a short time he was always pardoned.

Starr once was arrested with "Kid" Wilson at Okla. Springs and taken back to Fort Smith, Ark., where they were tried in federal court for the many crimes they were alleged to have committed in that state. They were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. As a federal prisoner at Columbus, Ohio, Starr served only a short time, however, his sentence being commuted by President McKinley. His citizenship was restored by President Roosevelt in 1907.

When captured in 1915, following robbery of two banks at Stroud, Okla., Starr was wounded and permanently crippled. He was confined in August, 1915, for the Stroud robbery and sentenced to twenty-five years in the penitentiary, but was released March 15, 1919, by Governor Robertson. At the time it was explained that the parole was granted because of information he gave which led to the capture and conviction of two members of the gang which he had been associated with.

The last report from Starr on file at the state pardon parole office in Oklahoma City, is a letter from Kansas City, written November 1, 1920, in which he said he was "getting along all right" in a motion picture venture.

TYPHUS TALK JARS SENATE

Washington, Feb. 17.—Enactment of the immigration restriction bill before adjournment of Congress was made the object of a drive started today by Senate leaders. The movement was inaugurated after Senator Harris, Democrat of Georgia, had advised speedy passage of the legislation, declaring that "tens of thousands of undesirable, some of them typhus-stricken are to be let into the country" unless immigration barriers were put up.

The immigration measure, by agreement of Republican leaders, will be given primary status tomorrow.

Final vote next week was predicted, with confidence expressed generally that the legislation would be salvaged from the Congressional jam.

While Senate leaders were making plans to resume the immigration bill from the legislative jam, and thereby place a limit on the number of immigrants arriving at American ports, Chairman Johnson, of the House immigration committee, in an address charged that New York city health authorities with "passing the buck" to the public health service for failure to prevent the introduction of typhus into the country.

TARIFF LEGISLATION FIXED

Washington, Feb. 21.—Mr. Harding has approved the program of tariff and tax legislation for the extra session of Congress, comprising two tariff bills a temporary and a permanent measure with tax legislation sandwiched in between. Chairman Fordney, chairman of the ways and means committee, announced today on his return from St. Augustine,

DEATH OF BAKER SPANN

Thrown From a Horse at Seawance Tennessee, and Instantly Killed

A long distance telephone message was received last night by Mrs. Frank M. Spann advising her of the death of her son, Thomas Baker Spann at Seawance, Tennessee, Sunday afternoon. The message stated that he was instantly killed by being thrown from a horse while on his way from Seawance to conduct services at a mission chapel near that place Sunday afternoon, but no further particulars were given relative to the accident. The body will be brought to Sumter and notice of the funeral will be given later.

Baker Spann was the only child of Mrs. Frank M. Spann and was twenty-four years old. He was reared in Sumter and after attending the city schools entered the University of Virginia from which he was graduated with honor two years ago. Last fall he entered the theological department of the University of the South, at Seawance, preparatory to taking holy orders as a minister of the Episcopal church. He was a young man of unusual scholarship and literary ability and a future of great promise was cut short by his untimely death.

The announcement of his death was a shock to his relatives and many friends in Sumter and the sympathy of the community goes out to his family.

ELECTION OF JUSTICE TAKES TIME

Columbia, Feb. 20.—The election of an associate justice is expected to be the biggest business before the legislature during the week ahead, for which both branches of the general assembly will convene Monday night, beginning what every member hopes will be the last week of the term.

In addition to the election, however, there are some matters of unusual importance, chief of which are the four bills providing for additional state revenue, and the annual appropriation bill. The revenue bills would create a tax on gasoline, and a tax on inheritances, these two having passed the house, also a tax on incomes and a tax against corporations and business partnerships. These four bills, if passed, will, it is stated, do away with the necessity of the present property tax.

So far the legislature has not passed any bill of state-wide importance. Seventy-one bills have been passed and signed by the governor, but all of these are of local value only.

There are several bills on the calendar pertaining to the cotton situation, and these will probably be voted on during the coming week. One is the bill to regulate the storage, grading and marketing of cotton; another, already passed the house, would make United States cotton standards the standards for South Carolina, and the third is the co-operative marketing bureau.

There are also other important measures on the calendar, including the bill to raise the "age of consent" from 14 to 16; the bill by Representative Dillon to limit rents to thirty per cent of the property return, the pension bill, and others.

Developments are expected in the associate justiceship race Tuesday morning when the balloting is renewed, at 10 o'clock. It is stated that the names of at least two of the weakest candidates in the race will be withdrawn. This is expected to help break the deadlock that has existed during the nine ballots. The candidates in the order of the strength they have polled, are as follows: Jesse T. Carter, Ramberg; M. L. Bonham, of Anderson; Senator J. H. Marion, of Chester; Judge Thos. S. Sease, of Spartanburg; Prof. E. Marion Tucker, of Columbia; Judge S. W. G. Shipp, of Florence; Judge Edward McVey, of Cheraw; and Judge Ernest Moore, of Lancaster. There are also several "unofficial" candidates in the race, J. Wilson Gibbs, clerk of the house having received one vote; Jas. W. Hadden having received five; Claude N. Sapp 2 and Cole L. Ellease 1.

BANK ROBBERY IN MEMPHIS

Memphis, Feb. 21.—An unidentified man held up a messenger of the Memphis branch of the federal reserve bank as he was passing through Court Square, in the center of the business district at noon today, and robbed him of a satchel containing about twenty-seven hundred dollars in currency. After admonishing the messenger to keep going the man moved with the crowds passing through the square and escaped.

Muskogee, Feb. 21.—Relatives of Henry Starr, the bank robber, who was wounded in the recent holdup at Harrison, Ark., have received word that Starr is unconscious, and rapidly sinking.

New York, Feb. 21.—Caruso had a restless night and ate a hearty breakfast this morning.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Representative Welly, Democrat, of Ohio, appeared today before the house judiciary committee, demanding the impeachment of Federal Judge Landis, for "high crimes and misdemeanors" on account of his acceptance of the office of supreme arbiter of baseball, while serving on the bench.

HUN AGENTS BUSY IN AMERICA

Insidious Propaganda Being Spread Broadcast Over United States

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 20.—American Legion posts throughout the United States were asked tonight by the legion's national headquarters here to watch for a revival of German propaganda in this country.

A bulletin sent out by the national headquarters said the object of the propaganda seemed intended to turn American sentiment against the allies, and to create a "powerful national political machine by the amalgamation of the disloyal elements in our population."

Mass meetings in New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Chicago, Milwaukee, Louisville, Omaha and Cleveland have been planned, the bulletin said, as "one of the first national manifestations" of the propaganda campaign. The bulletin, which was sent to all state headquarters of the legion, said:

"There has come to the attention of the national headquarters information indicating a move for a nationwide revival of German propaganda activities in the United States which are the result of a carefully directed national campaign, the object of which seems to be:

"First, The disruption of the accord which exists between the United States and our allies with particular reference to France and Great Britain by the turning of American popular sentiment against the governments of those countries; and

"Second, The methodical creation of a powerful national political machine by the amalgamation of the disloyal elements of our population and their elevation to a place of power in American affairs by the invisible influence of this organized minority. One of the first national manifestations of this activity will probably take the form of a series of mass meetings throughout the country, ostensibly in protest against the occupation of the Rhine by French negro troops from Africa. The alleged presence of French colonial troops to be used as a motive to turn American sentiment against France. Negro troops were withdrawn from the French army of occupation months ago. While there, their conduct was excellent, according to official reports from the American ambassador at Paris to the state department in Washington."

"It has been planned to hold a series of such mass meetings in New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Chicago, Milwaukee, Omaha, Cleveland and other cities. In all of these cities and in many others there are committees and groups which aspire to be the nucleus of the national organization which propaganda is now working in the interest of Germany and in the United States with the hope to build up for the purpose stated above.

"Identified with this movement are individuals whose disloyalty and whose efforts in the interest of Germany have been notorious in the past and who are now again in direct communication with Berlin.

"National headquarters has received reports of pro-German activities from many sections of the country which appear to connect directly with the national propaganda campaign here outlined.

"Department officials are requested to make note of any dramatic activities in their community and to forward actual and complete reports of same to national headquarters."

Lemuel Bolles, national adjutant of the legion, said there was little he could add publicly at this time, but in a formal statement supplementing the bulletin he said:

"The greatest check to a movement of this kind will come from those citizens of Teutonic extraction of whose loyalty and sincerity there can be no doubt."

GREER ATTORNEY SHOOTING HIMSELF

Greer, Feb. 20.—A. H. Miller, prominent attorney of this place, shot himself probably fatally this afternoon at 1 o'clock at his home here.

The bullet entered the breast just above the heart, piercing the left lung. The bullet passed clear through the body, went through the window of the room and lodged in the wall of the house next door to the Miller home. Immediately after the shooting, Mr. Miller was rushed to the sanatorium at Chick Springs, but physicians entertain little hope of his recovery.

Mr. Miller is 42 years old and has been closely identified with the business and political activities of this section. For a time he was connected with the Planters' bank. In the special election of 1915 he was a candidate for congress from the Fourth district, and again in the regular election of 1916. He is a brother of L. G. Miller, treasurer of Spartanburg county.

His health is supposed to have been the cause of the tragedy. Mr. Miller was alone in his room at the time sitting on his bed, while Mrs. Miller was in the adjoining room. He has several children. A .32 calibre pistol was used.

London, Feb. 21.—An agreement between Great Britain, France, Italy for alterations in the treaty of Sevres favorable to the Turks seemed probable here today. Premier Lloyd George was in conference here with the French premier and the Italian foreign minister.

ENGLAND GETS ROAD TO INDIA

Changes Made in Versailles Treaty to Give British Empire Control of All Land Route to India

Washington, Feb. 20 (By the Associated Press).—The complete text of the Franco-British convention by which the Syrian desert is transferred from a French to a British mandate was received today by officials here and is expected to engage the close attention of officials of the state department in connection with the general study of the allied mandates with which the American government for some time has been concerned.

The pact as concluded between the French and British governments in Paris, December 23, contains provisions for the complete settlement of the "problems raised by the attribution to Great Britain of the mandates for Palestine and Mesopotamia and by the attribution to France of the mandate over Syria and the Lebanon, all three conferred by the supreme council at San Remo."

The two phases of the treaty which have engaged the particular attention of American officials are the establishment for the first time of the precedent of a transfer of mandate territory from one power to another by mutual agreement without reference to the league of nations and the acquisition by Great Britain of her long cherished dream of an all rail route from the Mediterranean to India through territory under her exclusive political or military control.

In the settlement of the boundaries of the mandate territories the southern portion of Syria bordering upon Palestine, previously allotted to France by the league of nations, is transferred to Great Britain and specific provision is made for the construction of a British railway line linking Palestine with the Mesopotamian railway systems through the Syrian desert.

Section 3, Article 5, of the treaty provides that the "French government consents to the nomination of a special commission which, after having examined the ground, may readjust the frontier line in the valley of the Yarmuk as far as Nasib in such a manner as to render possible the construction of a British railway and pipe line connecting Palestine with the Hedjaz railway and the valley of the Euphrates, and running entirely within the limits of the areas under the British mandate."

Part of the British all rail route from India to the Mediterranean, according to advice received in official circles recently, was begun secretly during the war and has been completed from Quetta in northern India to a point in central Persia skirting the Afghanistan border. The railroad from Palestine would cross the Syrian desert and passing through Iraq in southern Mesopotamia would effect a junction with the line already completed from India at a point in southern Persia. With the transfer of southern Syria from France to Great Britain, according to officials, only the southern Persian link would be left outside political control of Great Britain and even this link is now partially under her political control and wholly under British military control.

It is believed by officials here that an account of the uncertainty of the Turkish settlement and the possibility of the passing of control of Constantinople from Great Britain, plans for the linking of the projected Mediterranean to India railway route with that part of the Berlin to Baghdad system from Constantinople south, will be deferred until the Near Eastern situation becomes less obscure.

CHESTER SHERIFF SHOT BY NEGRO

Chester, Feb. 20.—The mystery surrounding the shooting of Sheriff D. G. Gohar Anderson, about nine miles from Chester yesterday afternoon while he and Deputy Howze and Constable Smith were hunting for stiffs, has been solved.

At first it was thought that a trap gun had been set, but since the shooting a white man living in the community has been advised by a negro that Sam McCullough, in whose house the sheriff was shot, was seen leaving the house with his shotgun immediately after the sheriff's car left.

Officers and citizens have been hunting the negro today, but this afternoon nothing had been seen of him. He is about 34 years old, tall, weighs about 175 pounds and is reddish yellow or of Indian color. A liberal reward will be offered for his capture.

Sheriff Anderson is still holding his own but this afternoon, but is considered to be in a serious condition.

When McCullough's house was searched today a copper worn was found which bore evidence of having been in use yesterday.

Bodin, Feb. 21.—A majority socialist candidates appear to have won in nearly all sections of Prussia in yesterday's elections. In spite of the activity of the communists the vote of that element did not seem particularly important.

RIVER BRIDGE CONTRACTS LET

State Highway Department Moving Forward With Program to Improve Road System

Columbia, Feb. 21.—Contractors have been decided on by the state highway department for the construction of two of the big spans to be erected in South Carolina this spring, and contracts are to be let for two more within the next two weeks. The Pee Dee on the 24th, the Wateree, March 9.

Bids for the construction of the main span of the bridge over the Santee river, at Murray's Ferry, were received by the Santee Bridge commission and the state highway department on Thursday, and it was announced today that the lowest bid for the sub-structure was that of Simons-Macmillan Company, of Charleston, whose bid was \$92,891. The lowest bid for the super-structure was that of the Atlantic Bridge Co., of Roanoke, Va., for \$49,694. These bids will be held, pending conditions laid down, regarding the securing of rights of way, leading to the span, and enactment by congress of an act to authorize the bridging of the stream. It is stated that the Santee Bridge Commission is having some difficulty in securing rights of way for the approaches to the bridge.

The Santee bridge will ultimately cost \$850,000. There are approximately four miles of approaches leading to the bridge, through the Santee swamp. Contracts for these approaches will be let at a later date.

On Friday bids were received for the construction of the Sand Bar Ferry bridge, to span the Savannah river between Aiken county and the city of Augusta, Ga. The lowest bid for the sub-structure of this bridge was submitted by A. J. Twigg and Son, of Augusta, and was \$124,267. The lowest bid for the superstructure was \$77,709, submitted by the Virginia Bridge Co., of Roanoke. These bids were recommended by the state highway departments of South Carolina and Georgia, and they will be passed on by the Richmond county, Ga., commission next Friday.

The total of the two bids on these bridges was \$261,967.—It had been estimated that the span would cost \$260,000. There are other expenses incidental to the construction of the bridge, but the total cost will be about twenty per cent lower than was expected.

There were eight bidders on the Santee bridge and ten on the Sand Bar bridge. Concerns in Pensacola, Baltimore, Washington and other parts of the country submitted bids. State highway officials were pleased with the results of the "letting" and they state that the work on the big spans will start at early date. These large construction jobs are expected to prove of great value to the economic situation in the state.

CABINET PLACES STILL UNFILLED

St. Augustine, Feb. 21.—President-elect Harding began the last week of conferences today with several important questions regarding the make-up of the cabinet and the first steps of his administration still undecided. Debate selections of three of ten cabinet places are to be made and although there are indications that he has about made up his mind regarding two of them it is understood he is far from a final choice on the most troublesome of all, the secretaryship of the navy. Also he has most of his inaugural address to write during the week.

AMENDING THE LEAGUE COVENANT

Paris, Feb. 21.—Questions of great importance were laid before the council of the league of nations here today. The problems included the allied attitude toward Danzig and Lithuania, the proposed plebiscite in Lithuania, and plans for Armenian relief, in addition a commission to study amendments to the covenant of the league of nations will be named. One amendment proposed was that article ten be eliminated from the covenant.

NORTH BURIED IN SNOW MANTLE

Washington, Feb. 21.—Another snow storm over greater portion of territory east of the Mississippi and north of the Tennessee and North Carolina line is probable tonight or Tuesday. The weather bureau forecast, generally fair weather prevailed today after the storm of Saturday night and yesterday. The snow fall yesterday described by the bureau as heavy in Maryland, Eastern Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, New England. Sixteen inches were on the ground in Boston this morning. Nine deaths in New York city were directly attributable to the storm. Railroad and other traffic in various districts is interrupted. In some places the people had literally to dig themselves out of the deep drifts.

Tokyo, Feb. 21.—The conviction of the sentry who shot and killed Lieut. Langdon, at Vladivostok last December, is forecast by a number of newspapers here.